REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. Claims 1, 15, and 25 have been amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter is being added. In view of the arguments presented in detail below, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable.

I. The Claimed Invention

The present invention is directed to a battery charger. As recited in independent Claim 1, for example, the battery charger includes a charger connector to be coupled to a corresponding device connector of a portable device including a rechargeable battery. The portable device and rechargeable battery each respectively have a portable device type and a rechargeable battery type associated therewith from among a plurality of different portable device types and different battery types. The battery charger further includes a charging circuit connected to the charger connector, and a controller connected to the charger connector and the charging circuit. The controller is for causing a portable device connected to the charger connector to identify its corresponding portable device type and its corresponding rechargeable battery type, and for causing the charging circuit to charge the rechargeable battery based thereon. Independent Claim 15 is directed to a related battery charging system, and independent Claim 25 is directed to a related battery charging method.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 15, and 25 over U.S. Patent No. 6,614,206 to Wong et al. in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0137277 to Mori et al. Wong et al. is directed to a universal USB charging accessory that includes a charging apparatus **600** that can be connected to and charge several devices, such as PDAs, cell phones, laptops, etc. See, e.g., FIG. 8 of Wong et al. The Examiner points particularly to the text at col. 6, lines 25-27, which states that electrical power for recharging the battery powered devices is "controlled to the appropriate recharging levels," and contends that this inherently means that the charging apparatus **600** somehow learns what device and battery type is connected thereto, since it charges multiple different types of devices to the "appropriate levels."

Nonetheless, the Examiner correctly acknowledges that "Wong [et al.] does not go into detail about how the identification process/communications occurs." Office Action, page 3. The Examiner contends that Mori et al. properly supplies this teaching. Mori et al. is directed to a battery and maintenance service system for a power supply device. In particular, the Examiner points to an embodiment discussed in paragraph 0016 of Mori et al. in which an electronic device transmits operation state data of its battery power source via a battery management means to a service handling server. This is

done so that the service handling server can determine when a replacement battery is needed so that the battery can preemptively be replaced before failure.

It is respectfully submitted that the proposed combination of references fails to teach or fairly suggest all of the recitations of the above-noted independent claims. In particular, Wong et al. does not teach or fairly suggest charging batteries in different devices based upon both the device type and the battery type in use. Rather, this reference simply teaches that the charging is done to "appropriate recharging levels," as noted above, without further explanation. This likely means that the charging device charges the battery to an expected level based upon what type of battery is supposed to be in the device, as do the prior art chargers discussed in the background of the present application.

Furthermore, while Mori et al. discloses providing battery status information from an electronic device to a server, this reference fails to provide any teaching or suggestion that the way in which the battery is charged could be based upon such information. To the contrary, Mori et al. is not concerned with how to properly charge the battery, but rather determining when the battery is approaching failure and needs to be replaced. For example, paragraph 0016 of Mori et al. states that "[b]ecause the connection with the service handling server via the communication network allows the evaluation of the operation state of the battery power source device, it is possible to prepare for the

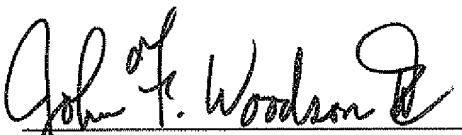
replacement before the electronic device stops functioning as a result of a degradation or a failure … ." (Emphasis added).

As such, the prior art simply fails to teach or fairly suggest all of the recitations of the above-noted claims. To find otherwise would require the impermissible use of the claimed invention in hindsight as a template or roadmap to piece together the prior art. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent Claims 1, 15, and 25 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments provided herein, it is submitted that all the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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